

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

4 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: COINS Project Manager and
Subsystem Managers

SUBJECT : CIA Proposed Objectives:
Achievement Measurement and
Judgment of Success or Failure

Objective 1

To isolate, define and determine solutions for the technical and security problems incident to designing, installing, operating, using and maintaining an inter-agency computer-based, on-line intelligence retrieval system.

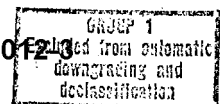
a. How is the achievement of the objective to be identified and measured?

Isolation, definition and resolution of technical and security problems is a continual task engaging all COINS participants and resulting in continual software and system changes to improve network operating efficiency. It is recognized that some problems cannot be resolved in the immediate future, e.g., a common network language, but long term solutions are being sought by COINS participants, panels, and contractors.

b. What constitutes success or failure in the achievement of the objective?

If, by the end of the system test, 80-90 percent of the queries levied by a COINS participant on all other participants are correctly answered in a reasonable time frame (15 minutes) without accidental spillage of irrelevant data, then the technical/security aspects of the Experiment will have been successfully tested.

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Objective 2

To provide practical training and actual experience for intelligence analysts in the use of an interagency on-line intelligence retrieval system.

a. How is the achievement of the objective to be identified and measured?

Each COINS participating agency has conducted, is conducting, and will conduct training sessions for potential COINS users. Each agency has produced written training materials describing how to use various portions of the COINS network. The COINS Environmental Report, which the Test and Analysis Panel has asked each COINS participant to prepare, will detail the measures taken by each agency to interest analysts in the use of COINS and the level and detail of training provided.

b. What constitutes success or failure in the achievement of the objective?

The objective will be successfully achieved if a representative group of analysts in each COINS participating agency are able to query COINS files with a minimum of difficulty.

Objective 3

To ascertain the essential characteristics of a file which make it suitable for inclusion in an interagency on-line intelligence retrieval system.

a. How is the achievement of the objective to be identified and measured?

The COINS switch log will maintain data on file usage and in addition each analyst who queries a COINS file will provide file usage satisfaction information via the User Log Form. The in depth interviews which each COINS participating agency is required to conduct to obtain reactions from COINS users should be particularly fruitful for obtaining data on

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user file preferences. In addition, the IHC is requesting each of its members to provide data on the types of files which should be included in an operational COINS system.

b. What constitutes success or failure in the achievement of the objective?

This objective will be successfully met if a set of files can be identified which would have high utility in an interagency on-line system. This objective would not be met if the results of the Experiment were inconclusive regarding file usage and preferences.

Objective 4

To determine those elements of the total system design which encourage and facilitate analyst usage and those elements which discourage or hinder usage.

a. How is the achievement of the objective to be identified and measured?

COINS system designers are already aware of certain unavoidable problems implicit in the COINS system which will inhibit usage, e.g., multi-query languages, lack of data standards in COINS files, etc. The seriousness of these problems and those aspects of COINS which are viewed in a more favorable light will be fully brought out by the reactions obtained from COINS users through log forms and interviews.

b. What constitutes success or failure in the achievement of the objective?

This objective will be successfully met if each agency is conscientious in its collection of data on user reactions to COINS. Low user participation in COINS could result in inadequate data collection.

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Objective 5

To collect the necessary data on file usage, system efficiency and reliability and user reaction to permit an evaluation of the feasibility and utility of operational implementation of a COINS-like system.

a. How is the achievement of this objective to be identified and measured?

The Test and Analysis Panel has developed a plan, procedures, and forms for collecting the desired data and this plan has been approved by all COINS participants.

b. What constitutes success or failure in the achievement of the objective?

If the data collection plan is followed as recommended, and if there is sufficient usage of the network to obtain the desired user reaction then this objective will be partially or fully met. Partial failure could result from gaps in the data collection plan which were not anticipated during the planning stage.

Objective 6

Determine the elements and attributes which would be critical to the success of a full system for continuing community operations, and develop objectives and specifications for an operational system.

a. How is the achievement of this objective to be identified and measured?

If objectives 1-5 above are met, the data will be available to develop a system plan for an operational COINS network. In other words, this objective is unique in that it is completely dependent on the satisfaction of all the other objectives.

b. What constitutes success or failure in the achievement of this objective?

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This objective could fail on two counts:

(1) It will fail if inadequate or inconclusive data is collected in an area critical to the design of an operational system.

(2) It will fail if the data collected during the operational test conclusively proves that an operational COINS network is not required at this time.

If neither of the above conditions exist, this objective can be successfully satisfied.



CIA COINS Subsystem Manager

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